



# **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY ACTS**

**SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE**

**FILE NUMBER: 100-4712**

**PART: 11 OF 19**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET**

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

**Section 552**

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**Section 552a**

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- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.
- Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

       Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

       Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): \_\_\_\_\_

For your information: \_\_\_\_\_

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-24-90 BY SP8BDS/cb  
318,519

100-4712-501, 502, 503, 504

CHANGED TO

62-43818-201X, 254X, 269X, 260X

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FILE NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-668

REPORT MADE AT <b>CHICAGO, ILLINOIS</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>8/20/43</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>7/7/43</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>
<b>THE AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - G</b>		
<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:</b> No indication subject organization has remained active in Chicago area. Many persons formerly in America First Committee, Chicago, now associated with WILLIAM J. GRACE in the Citizens U.S.A. Committee formerly known as Keep America Out of War.</p> <p><b>REFERENCE:</b> Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated May 29, 1943, at Chicago, Illinois. <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b></p> <p><b>DETAILS:</b> At CHICAGO, ILLINOIS <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] advised that no information has come to his possession in recent months which would indicate in any way that the recognised leaders or members of the America First Committee are active at the present time or have been active in recent months. [REDACTED]</p> <p>[REDACTED] stated that many of the members of the Chicago America First Committee are now followers and members of the Citizens U.S.A. Committee headed by CAPTAIN WILLIAM J. GRACE. [REDACTED] advised that these persons, all of whom before Pearl Harbor expressed isolationist viewpoints, were members of America First, Mid-West Monetary Federation, Patrick Henry Forum, We, the Mothers Mobilize for America, Inc., and other similar organizations. The Citizens U.S.A. Committee, formerly known as the Keep America Out of War Committee, is the subject of a pending investigation in the Chicago Field Division. <b>b2 b7D</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] advised GERALD E. SMITH of Detroit has recently formed an organization which he is calling "The America First Party," but according to [REDACTED] there is no indication that the members of this group were connected in the past with the subject organization. <b>b2 b7D</b></p> <p>[REDACTED] further advised that it is believed SMITH'S organization is composed of his former followers and the only similarity between this and the subject</p>			
APPROVED AND FORWARDED:	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES	
		100-12-505	RECORDED
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		INDEXED	
5 - Bureau 2 - Detroit, Inf. 3 - Chicago		6 JUN 25 1943 DATE 10-2490 318.5	
		EX-68	

organization is to be found in its name.

A review of the file in instant case reveals that all offices have submitted RUC reports and there being no further investigation this case is being considered as closed.

- C L O S E D -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-21-90 BY SP8BTS/COL

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62-43818-297, 346X, 329X, 370X, 361X,  
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DATE 2024.90 BY SP8B5/CAL

100-4712-522

CHANGED TO

X 62-43818-437

CV

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice

Chicago, Illinois

March 25, 1944

LSB

Director, FBI

RE: AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY - G

Dear Sir

The Chicago office recently received a letter from the Buffalo Field Division requesting advice as to the disposition of certain exhibits obtained during the course of the investigation conducted in instant case. These exhibits are at present retained in the file of the Buffalo office. They are set out in full in the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated January 22, 1943, at Buffalo, New York.

b6 b7c  
4/14/44

From a review of this report it does not appear that the exhibits in question are of particular value in future legal action to this office, but it is believed possible that the Bureau may desire to retain them for information purposes, or for possible prosecutive action in this or related cases.

Therefore it is requested that the Bureau advise the Chicago and Buffalo Field Divisions as to the destruction or preservation of instant exhibits.

100-668  
cc Buffalo

Very truly yours

A. J. Drayton  
S. J. DRAYTON, SAC R.

b7C

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-24-90 BY SP&BIS/Co

100-4712-52  
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30 MAR 1944

RECORDED

100-4712 - 523

SAC, Chicago

b7c  
May 2, 1944

EX - 56

J. Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE  
INTERNAL SECURITY (G)

Reference is made to your letter in the captioned matter dated March 25, 1944, wherein authority is requested for the destruction of certain exhibits being held by the Buffalo Field Division in its file on the America First Committee.

The Bureau has reviewed the material set forth in the report of Special Agent [redacted], dated January 22, 1943, at Buffalo, New York, and it is not believed that any necessity exists for the continued retention of the prints of this material unless same appear to the Buffalo Field Division to be applicable to some other individual cases in that or other field divisions. It is believed, however, that for the time being the photographic negatives of this material should be retained by the Buffalo Field Division for possible reference purposes.

Mr. Casper  
cc: Buffalo

Mr. Edwards

Mr. Felt

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Clegg

Mr. Daniels

Mr. McDonald

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Quinn

Mr. Quinn

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

MAY 2 1944

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
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# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

FILE NO. 100-2651

REPORT MADE AT <b>PHILADELPHIA, PA.</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>4/12/44</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>12/7/43; 1/10</b>	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] <b>b7C</b>
TITLE <b>AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE</b>		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>INTERNAL SECURITY - C</b>	

**X** SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

America First Committee members ceased to be active as such in Philadelphia Field Division. IRENE THORN MURPHY, Executive Secretary is now editor of the "News Letter" published by the Mothers and Daughters of Pennsylvania. The Crusading Mothers of Pennsylvania, also known as Blue Star Mothers, is the active nucleus of any America First group in Philadelphia. **ALL CONTAINED**

- C -

**DATE 10-24-90 BY SP8RJ/b7C**

**X** Reference:

Report of Special Agent [REDACTED] Philadelphia, **b7C**  
Pennsylvania, on 7/25/42.

**X** Details:

[REDACTED] advised he is not aware of any activity being conducted by the America First Committee as such in the Philadelphia Field Division and that in his opinion any activity occurring among the former members of this group would come into being through the various Mothers groups operating in Philadelphia at the present time. **b7D**

**COPIES DESTROYED**  
It was previously reported in an investigation concerning GERALD LYMAN KENNETH SMITH, with aliases, that a meeting was held in November, 1943 at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel in Philadelphia, sponsored by the Blue Star Mothers of Pennsylvania. It is noted that at the meeting there were present CHARLES WALLINGTON, JOHN LISTER and IRENE THORN MURPHY, all formerly active as America Firsters. At that time Mr. SMITH, referring to the Mothers group stated, "These women were donating their time and working hard for the cause of America First . . . . It is noted that

APPROVED AND  
FORWARDED:

SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

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2 - Chicago  
2 - Philadelphia

100-14712-524	RECORDED & INDEXED
19 APR 1 1944 [REDACTED]	b7C

**copy in file**

ST AIR 1944-67

Mr. SMITH was introduced as the outstanding America Firster in the Country and he made the following statements, among others already reported, during his remarks.

"I would to God there was no need for a third political party in these United States, but when you have a family perpetrating a dynasty out of the United States treasury, it is time we took drastic action . . . ."

"We America Firsters are the balance of power between the old parties. Neither party can win without us and we will give our vote to the GOP if they do not give us another fake like Wilkie. If they do, we will run a third party candidate . . . ."

"We have an organization in thirty-four States and are completing arrangements in the others. The ground work will be laid and if necessary we will have a separate party . . . ."

"The best America First speech made this year was delivered by the five Senators who visited sixty-four battle fields on their world tour . . . ."

"I tell you the aims of the America First Committee are to retire the Roosevelt dynasty . . . ."

"Any contributions which you want to make to further the work of America First you are requested to place in the envelope and seal it."

It is also noted that Mr. SMITH stated in a Press Release, issued to him at the time of this meeting in Philadelphia, as follows:

"A permanent America First Party Committee is being formed in Philadelphia.

1. We support the war effort 100%.
2. We oppose world government.
3. We fight political Fascism.
4. We fight New Deal Communism."

It is noted that in the announcement of the aforesaid meeting, Mr. SMITH was referred to as the Director of the America First Party.

The investigation being conducted in this office concerning the Mothers and Daughters of Pennsylvania revealed that Mrs. IRENE THORN MURPHY is the editor of the "News Letter", published by that organization, copies of which are constantly being secured by this office.

Ph #100-2651

b2  
b7E b7C

Inasmuch as the activities of the America First Committee has ceased as such in Philadelphia, and that any activities of the members thereof will be reflected in other current investigations being conducted in this office of various Mothers groups, this case is being placed in a closed status on the authority of the Special Agent in Charge.

C L O S E D

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**Section 552**

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**Section 552a**

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26988

O  
RE: AMERICA FIRST Co

[REDACTED]  
BY SPECIAL MESSENGER

MEMORANDUM for Mr. Horn

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 10-24-90 BY SP983/cd

Pursuant to telephonic arrangements made with you, there are being sent herewith the remainder of the membership and contributor lists of the America First Committee in order that you may have copies made for your files.

It will be appreciated if you will return the lists when you have finished with them.

Samuel Klaus

SAMUEL KLAUS

Enclosures

EX-30

EX-33

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30 AUG 8 1944

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**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
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**Section 552**

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Memorandum

• UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

56211/156 Inf.

1654

J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Parry M. Oliver, Director of Administrative Services  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
SUBJECT: AMERICA FIRST, INCORPORATED.

DATE: August 28, 1944

A. A. Nease

McNamee

Mr. Tracy

Mr. Tamm

Mr. Tolson

Mr. Tracy

Reference is made to your memorandum of August 1, 1944, concerning our request for information on the above named organization. It will be appreciated if a complete file review is made on the AMERICA FIRST, INCORPORATED.

Records of the Foreign Agents Registration Section, War Division, reflect that the above styled group was organized in September 1937 by James True, Washington, D.C., publicist, who was later indicted for violation of the Smith Act in conspiring with others to undermine the morale of the armed forces. The Foreign Agents Registration Section advised that their records contained no information which might indicate that the AMERICA FIRST, INC., (the James True organization) had any relation with the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE although it is alleged that True, as an individual, worked with some individuals who were active in the AMERICA FIRST COMMITTEE.

Parry M. Oliver  
RECORDED 100-4712-526  
INDEXED 18 30 AUG 1944  
EX-37

10/2/44

100-4712-526

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SEARCHED  
INDEXED

The Commissioner  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

John Edgar Hoover - Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Reference is made to the communication of Mr. Perry W. Oliver, dated August 28, 1944, your reference 56211/156, requesting information concerning the captioned organization.

Another Governmental agency reported during 1936 that America First, Incorporated, National Press Building, Washington, D. C., "seems to be a clearing house for all anti-Semitic individuals and groups." 61-7559-2823

Additional information was received in 1937 from a Governmental agency representative in California in which a listing was made of "pro-Fascist and anti-Semitic groups." This list included America First, Incorporated, National Press Building, Washington, D. C., James True, President, and Michael Ahern, Vice President. 61-7556-133

61-7556-433

During the hearings before the Special Committee on un-American activities, House of Representatives, on November 19, 1938, a representative of the Committee advised that considerable literature of an anti-Semitic character and also of a pro-Japanese character had been obtained and that this literature had been issued by America First, Incorporated, Washington, D. C., of which organization James T. Farley was the chairman. 61-7582. Vol. 3. p. 2742

61-7582, Vol. 3, p. 2342

During 1940 a confidential source advised that America First, Incorporated, was organized in August, 1934, and that the reason for its organization as stated in a "confidential statement issued by America First, Incorporated," was for the "protection of the Constitution, American industry, and individual enterprises through the dissemination of truth." This source reported that up until the winter of 1936 the organization issued Industrial Control Reports. The first few issues of these reports made no reference to Jews but later reports indicated that the organization was anti-Semitic.

There is attached hereto a photostatic copy of a "Confidential Statement" issued by the named organization. 61-7307-74.

A confidential source has reported that on May 15, 1941, members of Britain First, Incorporated, the Mother's Guards, and We, the Mothers, Mobilize America, Incorporated, picketed a downtown hotel where Lord Halifax of Great Britain was staying. The picketing was allegedly in protest of the administration's policy of all-out aid to England. This all-out aid occurred in

During May or June, the American Council on Public Affairs sponsored a publication, "Organized Anti-Semitism in America" by Donald B. Strong. This book listed a group of organizations described as "quite definitely anti-Semitic," which list included American First, Incorporated, Washington, D. C., stated to have been founded in 1934 and to have become defunct in 1936.

1-27260-2-37

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI Attention: FBI Laboratory

DATE: October 14, 1944

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK

(S)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

SEDITION

① 243 46  
② 243 46  
③ 243 46

(S) RECORDED

100-4712-527

It is requested that the Bureau's Laboratory search this letter against appropriate files at the Bureau to determine if similar letters have been received. The enclosed photostat may be retained for completion of the Bureau's files.

5100723 1944

copy of specimen  
retained for lab.

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/04/08 BY SP/MS/10  
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FILE DESCRIPTION  
BUREAU FILE

SUBJECT America First Committee

FILE NO. 100-4712

SECTION NO. 11

SERIALS 501

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